

# WATERFOWL

## Duck Breeding Populations

Breeding population estimates are made each year for 10 key species of ducks in the principal breeding areas of Alaska, Canada, and the northcentral United States (Table 4.1, Fig. 4.1). Surveys are conducted in May and early June by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Canadian Wildlife Service, provincial and state conservation agency personnel. Ducks are counted from fixed-wing aircraft on the same transects each year. Estimates of ducks and ponds seen from the air are corrected for visibility bias by conducting ground counts on a sample of the transects. The estimates in Table 4.1 are not the entire continental breeding populations of these ducks; a portion of each population (an estimated 20% for mallards) nests outside the surveyed areas.

Although numbers of breeding ducks have fluctuated substantially from year to year, trend analysis suggests that total duck numbers are stable. This stable trend, however, is the result of increasing numbers of some species (e.g., gadwall, green-winged teal, shovelers and blue-winged teal) and decreasing numbers of others (e.g., pintails and scaup). There is also a slight decreasing trend in numbers of breeding mallards, but this trend is less pronounced due to the large numbers of breeding mallards seen in the late 1990's. Despite the improvements in duck numbers in the 1990's, there are still concerns about the long-term loss of both wetland and upland habitat in the prairie pothole region and the long-term outlook for duck populations in the future.

Duck populations have fluctuated substantially over time. The drought of the 1980's pushed many populations to

near record low levels. The resiliency and adaptability of these birds, however, was dramatically illustrated when most duck populations rebounded after water returned to the prairies in the 1990's. Pintails and scaup were exceptions to this rule; pintails because drought continued to plague their primary nesting areas in Alberta and scaup for reason related to nutritional deficiencies on migration areas. Duck populations will continue to fluctuate in the future as numbers of wetlands across the landscape of north-central North America rise and fall with the vagaries of the weather

## Giant Canada Goose Population

Giant Canada geese nested throughout Iowa prior to Euro-American settlement but were extirpated from most of the Midwest, including Iowa, by 1900. The giant Canada goose restoration program initiated by the IDNR in 1964 has succeeded in restoring this species to much of its former nesting range in Iowa (see Giant Canada Goose Restoration). The giant Canada goose population in Iowa has exhibited steady growth for the past 30 years (Fig. 4.2). Each summer, biologists and technicians estimate the numbers of adult Canada geese and young produced within their wildlife units. To obtain a statistically valid estimate of this population, an aerial survey is also periodically conducted. The results of the aerial survey in 2001 indicated that the population was unchanged from 2000: 53,839 (+ 9,653) in 2001 compared to 54,519 (+ 8,490) in 2000. The population estimates made by wildlife biologists have been very similar to the population estimates obtained from the aerial survey. This suggests that the biologists'

estimates accurately represented the growth rate and size of this population in past years.

### **Waterfowl Harvests**

Waterfowl harvests and hunter activity in Iowa are estimated annually by the USFWS (Table 4.2). Harvest estimates are calculated by combining the results of 2 surveys: 1) a survey of randomly selected hunters from the Harvest Information Program (HIP) registrants to estimate total waterfowl killed, and 2) a survey that solicits duck wings and goose tails to determine the species composition of the harvest.

Iowa's duck harvests have fluctuated substantially since 1961. The lowest harvests of all ducks and mallards occurred in the early 1960's, years of low duck populations and restrictive regulations. The highest duck harvest was in 1979, a year with good duck numbers and, perhaps more importantly, excellent habitat conditions in Iowa due to above normal rainfall in late summer and early fall. Duck harvests began to decline in 1985, bottoming out in 1988 and 1989. Reasons for reduced harvests included smaller fall flights, shorter seasons, reduced bag limits, fewer hunters and poor local habitat conditions. Duck harvests have increased in recent years as a result of improvements in duck numbers, liberal hunting regulations and increases in numbers of active hunters.

Iowa's Canada goose harvest was relatively constant during 1967-85, but began to increase in 1986 as a result of the increased growth of Iowa's giant Canada goose population (Table 4.2). Canada goose harvests increased substantially after 1988, but were dampened in 1993 when restrictive Canada goose hunting regulations were implemented to reduce the harvest of Eastern Prairie Population

(EPP) Canada geese. EPP geese nest on the west coast of Hudson Bay and are one of the two principle migrant Canada goose populations that fly through Iowa (the others are small Canada geese commonly called "hutchies" that nest on Baffin Island in the Arctic). The combination of restrictive hunting regulations, receding floodwaters, and large-scale participation in the Farm Service Agency's 0/92 program, resulted in a substantial decrease in Iowa's Canada goose harvest in 1993. Canada goose harvests began increasing in the mid 1990's, peaking at 61,000 in 2000. In 1996, a special 2-day September Canada goose season was implemented in north-central and northwest Iowa. During 1996-2000, the Canada goose harvest ranged from 6,300 to 16,700 during this special 2-day hunt.

The snow goose harvest in Iowa has declined since the early 1970's, despite record high numbers of light geese in the Flyway in the 1990's. Declining harvests resulted from shifting snow goose migration patterns, increased use of refuges, and large numbers of older geese in the population. By the mid 1990's, the mid-continent light goose population was severely damaging Arctic breeding habitats. To increase harvests of light geese, more liberal hunting regulations were implemented (liberal bag limits, 107-day seasons) and a conservation order was implemented to permit taking light geese after March 10. The harvest during the conservation order period in Iowa has ranged from 12,000 to 20,000 during 1999-2002. During the 1998-2001 regular light goose seasons, the harvest ranged from 600 to 15,000.

### **Waterfowl Seasons**

Iowa waterfowlers have experienced a wide range of duck and goose seasons since the USFWS began

regulating waterfowl hunting in 1918 (Tables 4.3 and 4.4). Nearly every conceivable season-date combination has been tried in the past 80+ years. Duck hunting regulations are inherently complex because they involve many species, but the general lack of consistency in regulations, both at the federal and state levels, has made interpretation of their effects on duck harvests very difficult. Goose hunting regulations, on the other hand, have been less complex and more consistent. The relative secure goose breeding habitat, along with consistently conservative seasons and bag limits, have enabled goose populations to generally prosper. The growing giant Canada goose population, however, has complicated traditional Canada goose harvest management. It is particularly challenging to develop hunting regulations that will increase harvests of local giant Canada geese while, at the same time, limit harvests of migrant geese.

### **Waterfowl Banding**

Ducks and geese are captured and banded with leg bands to obtain information on survival rates, hunting mortality, migration patterns and timing, and relationships of harvest areas to production areas. Banding of some species is at the request of the USFWS, while others are banded for in-state programs. Both state and federal personnel band ducks in Iowa, but IDNR personnel band all the Canada geese and more than 90% of the wood ducks (Table 4.5). The USFWS, in concert with the Mississippi Flyway Council, determines banding priorities. In the 1960's emphasis was placed on banding blue-winged teal to evaluate special teal seasons. Winter mallard banding was conducted in the

1970's to supplement breeding grounds bandings and examine hen mortality during spring and summer. Wood duck bandings have been used to evaluate Iowa's September duck seasons. Wood duck banding is also important to measure the effects of hunting on wood duck populations, a necessity because direct counts are not feasible for wood ducks. The IDNR has consistently cooperated with USFWS and Mississippi Flyway Council banding programs and has one of the top wood duck banding programs in the nation.

Canada goose banding has increased with the growth of our local giant Canada population. Migrant Canada geese have also been banded as part of cooperative projects with other states and provinces. Canada goose banding will be increasingly important as states and the USFWS attempt to assess the impacts of special harvest regulations on giant and migrant Canada goose populations.

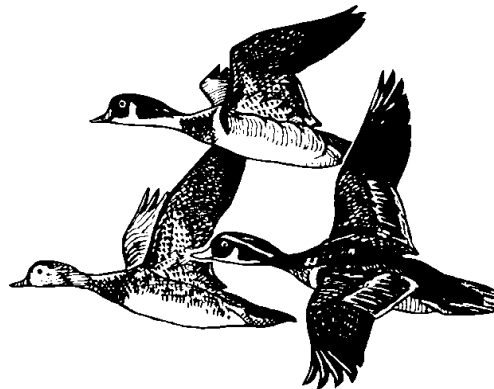


Table 4.1 Breeding population estimates for 10 species of ducks, 1955-present (in thousands).  
Source is USFWS.

YEAR	MALLARD	GREEN -		BLUE -		NORTHERN SHOVELER	NORTHERN PINTAIL	RED- HEAD	CANVAS -	
		GAD- WALL	AMERICAN WIGEON	WINGED TEAL	WINGED TEAL				BACK	SCAUP
1955	8,356	663	3,067	1,823	5,381	1,571	9,387	572	599	5,609
1956	9,842	783	3,118	1,480	4,763	1,630	9,897	755	696	5,734
1957	9,151	691	2,852	1,053	4,312	1,459	6,311	542	615	5,745
1958	10,994	454	2,421	1,326	5,165	1,187	5,552	443	742	5,286
1959	8,746	527	3,703	2,601	5,046	1,456	5,483	493	481	6,961
1960	7,164	721	2,937	1,390	4,185	1,743	5,414	495	600	4,826
1961	6,912	594	2,817	1,709	3,655	1,256	3,676	319	428	5,335
1962	5,139	846	1,882	700	2,940	1,183	3,395	503	354	5,240
1963	6,723	1,092	1,706	1,155	3,681	1,278	3,622	413	499	5,396
1964	5,740	825	2,495	1,505	3,961	1,608	3,013	527	649	5,058
1965	5,101	1,270	2,312	1,237	3,570	1,372	3,549	599	520	4,652
1966	6,680	1,672	2,282	1,580	3,718	2,103	4,764	713	658	4,432
1967	7,470	1,385	2,320	1,588	4,509	2,291	5,270	734	500	4,932
1968	7,019	1,947	2,282	1,405	3,459	1,646	3,470	493	561	4,360
1969	7,536	1,573	2,919	1,468	4,133	2,145	5,900	633	501	5,131
1970	9,960	1,606	3,447	2,171	4,858	2,220	6,369	624	578	5,634
1971	9,306	1,603	3,281	1,881	4,607	2,005	5,874	534	444	5,063
1972	9,255	1,621	3,172	1,895	4,277	2,441	7,018	551	426	7,932
1973	8,060	1,247	2,864	1,936	3,334	1,624	4,351	498	617	6,222
1974	6,681	1,592	2,665	1,840	4,968	2,006	6,583	627	504	5,720
1975	7,494	1,641	2,692	1,667	5,829	1,962	5,878	829	591	6,427
1976	7,894	1,245	2,476	1,536	4,747	1,756	5,475	668	610	5,779
1977	7,396	1,312	2,560	1,291	4,589	1,475	3,935	637	667	6,247
1978	7,353	1,561	3,286	2,194	4,471	1,978	5,106	738	369	5,936
1979	7,816	1,751	3,087	2,019	4,861	2,386	5,382	695	573	7,540
1980	7,570	1,391	3,558	1,994	4,884	1,902	4,514	753	727	6,314
1981	6,367	1,402	2,924	1,851	3,726	2,325	3,472	596	610	5,918
1982	6,254	1,637	2,440	1,543	3,657	2,141	3,709	617	510	5,468
1983	6,313	1,517	2,606	1,836	3,366	1,870	3,506	709	523	7,136
1984	5,247	1,532	2,987	1,361	3,956	1,620	2,969	673	520	6,909
1985	4,754	1,304	2,040	1,435	3,459	1,697	2,511	579	373	5,038
1986	6,836	1,540	1,732	1,682	4,463	2,118	2,737	560	437	5,204
1987	5,613	1,311	1,982	2,003	3,518	1,951	2,629	502	451	4,837
1988	6,331	1,349	2,194	2,058	3,975	1,680	2,011	441	436	4,684
1989	5,650	1,416	1,974	1,843	3,128	1,540	2,113	511	478	4,344
1990	5,452	1,672	1,860	1,790	2,776	1,759	2,257	481	539	4,294
1991	5,444	1,584	2,254	1,558	3,764	1,716	1,803	446	491	5,255
1992	5,976	2,033	2,208	1,773	4,333	1,954	2,098	596	482	4,639
1993	5,708	1,755	2,053	1,695	3,193	2,047	2,053	485	472	4,080
1994	6,980	2,318	2,382	2,108	4,616	2,912	2,972	654	526	4,529
1995	8,269	2,836	2,615	2,301	5,140	2,855	2,758	889	771	4,446
1996	7,941	2,984	2,273	2,459	6,416	3,449	2,736	834	849	4,250
1997	9,940	3,897	3,118	2,507	6,124	4,120	3,558	918	689	4,112
1998	9,640	3,742	2,858	2,087	6,399	3,183	2,521	1,005	686	3,472
1999	10,806	3,236	2,920	2,631	7,150	3,890	3,058	973	716	4,412

Table 4.1 Breeding population estimates for 10 species of ducks, 1955-present (in thousands).  
Source is USFWS.

YEAR	MALLARD	GAD- WALL	AMERICAN WIGEON	GREEN -	BLUE -	NORTHERN SHOVELER	NORTHERN PINTAIL	RED- HEAD	CANVAS - BACK	SCAUP
				WINGED TEAL	WINGED TEAL					
2000	9,470	3,158	2,733	3,194	7,431	3,521	2,908	926	707	4,026
2001	7,904	2,679	2,494	2,509	5,757	3,314	3,296	712	580	3,694
2002	7,504	2,235	2,334	2,334	4,207	2,138	1,790	565	487	3,524
<u>Percent Change in 2002 from:</u>										
2001	-5%	-17%	-6%	-7%	-27%	-35%	-46%	-21%	-16%	-5%
1955-01 Av.	-17%	-15%	-9%	-21%	-23%	-6%	13%	-23%	-18%	-8%
<u>1955-01 Statistics</u>										
Average	8,687	2,919	2,613	2,851	6,594	3,417	3,102	819	643	3,860
Maximum	9,470	3,158	2,733	3,194	7,431	3,521	3,296	926	707	4,026
Minimum	7,904	2,679	2,494	2,509	5,757	3,314	2,908	712	580	3,694
<u>NAWMP-</u>										
Goals	8,700	1,600	3,300	2,300	5,300	2,100	6,300	760	580	7,600
<u>Percent Difference from Goal</u>										
2002	-14%	40%	-29%	1%	-21%	2%	-72%	-26%	-16%	-54%

Table 4.2 Selected Iowa waterfowl statistics on harvest, duck stamp sales, days hunted and average seasonal bag per active adult hunter, (1961-present). Preliminary data for 2001. Source is USFWS.

YEAR	DAYS AND HARVEST (1,000's)								FEDERAL	AVE.	ACTIVE
	MALLARD	WOOD DUCK	B-W TEAL	G-W TEAL	ALL DUCKS	CANADA GEESE	SNOW GEESE	DAYS HUNTED	DUCK STAMPS	SEASON BAG	ADULT HUNTERS
1961	88.5	6.8	0.5	16.3	139.4			230.4	41,147	3.88	33,500
1962	21.3	7.8	0.4	5.6	45.1	6.6	12.2	162.0	30,602	2.09	24,000
1963	43.0	29.0	27.9	14.9	139.2	7.2	10.4	228.2	37,166	4.68	29,700
1964	76.6	24.5	17.9	26.8	182.1	4.3	8.5	236.9	37,668	6.21	30,900
1965	79.8	15.4	43.8	22.3	174.6	6.6	26.3	271.6	39,941	5.95	34,000
1966	121.3	30.8	47.3	40.7	270.2	7.2	17.9	361.2	47,438	7.37	41,300
1967	124.9	12.4	43.3	38.4	229.4	12.4	16.8	394.6	52,269	6.63	44,300
1968	40.4	16.1	0.9	19.7	96.3	10.6	10.8	270.0	45,753	2.61	37,500
1969	89.9	21.1	53.3	22.3	183.7	15.5	43.2	397.3	54,807	5.09	47,500
1970	139.2	50.6	51.6	45.2	368.7	12.6	48.3	496.6	65,822	5.97	56,900
1971	160.9	59.3	49.6	26.6	376.2	10.4	46.1	536.5	68,401	6.32	58,700
1972	171.8	39.3	31.2	23.9	344.5	5.0	39.3	513.8	57,907	6.35	50,800
1973	99.9	31.0	18.5	18.1	211.9	11.6	32.5	401.1	57,196	3.94	48,700
1974	106.1	46.7	26.0	24.0	238.0	7.7	45.1	450.6	60,446	4.29	51,600
1975	117.4	57.5	51.0	38.6	313.6	13.5	41.2	446.1	58,791	5.93	49,700
1976	87.5	44.0	33.0	27.5	242.2	9.3	15.8	359.6	55,449	4.95	45,400
1977	138.7	37.9	17.0	38.7	280.0	7.8	29.1	407.3	57,143	5.32	46,200
1978	125.6	73.6	41.1	41.7	351.4	11.9	23.9	424.9	56,259	6.70	47,800
1979	183.3	77.8	69.2	38.0	441.0	10.0	43.2	496.7	49,845	9.49	44,400
1980	118.1	49.1	39.0	37.3	299.9	11.7	23.1	384.6	47,008	6.58	41,100
1981	130.2	54.3	34.6	27.7	301.1	10.2	23.1	371.5	41,648	7.89	35,900
1982	164.9	55.3	58.2	24.3	348.8	10.2	14.0	354.9	40,599	9.60	34,400
1983	115.2	47.3	74.0	27.8	324.2	11.5	16.5	310.4	40,381	8.49	34,000
1984	96.3	46.3	56.8	36.2	299.5	13.3	22.0	300.3	41,078	7.54	35,300
1985	62.0	37.4	41.5	22.6	199.8	10.4	8.5	241.4	33,304	6.83	27,900
1986	88.9	46.0	26.9	18.3	217.0	17.2	11.8	244.0	33,504	7.29	27,900
1987	64.8	36.1	14.2	20.1	161.1	15.1	3.6	207.0	30,248	6.04	25,500
1988	41.6	11.4	1.4	12.5	78.3	12.1	10.1	131.8	22,008	4.33	17,300
1989	32.2	17.0	2.9	17.9	87.8	20.2	4.4	127.5	21,686	4.68	16,600
1990	41.3	25.6	4.6	17.8	105.8	26.6	3.1	159.3	24,686	4.90	20,800
1991	63.1	39.4	6.6	13.3	154.2	29.3	8.1	196.7	24,989	6.78	21,400
1992	64.9	18.8	2.9	14.3	122.8	28.7	4.1	198.6	26,744	5.12	22,800
1993	52.7	22.2	4.1	7.9	100.9	17.3	9.5	176.5	25,640	4.69	21,092
1994	49.1	34.9	17.5	22.5	151.8	26.1	2.4	232.6	29,206	5.97	24,523
1995	86.1	49.2	38.9	23.7	242.3	48.0	4.6	280.2	30,282	8.19	25,792
1996	90.6	42.5	36.2	31.0	244.7	59.5	5.4	284.2	30,945	7.91	26,338
1997	71.2	52.1	54.5	32.7	272.0	52.2	15.2	338.3	36,062	8.29	30,737
1998	99.6	36.0	47.7	41.9	281.9	33.2	15.6	292.8	30,864	9.93	27,454
1999	55.9	35.8	41.9	17.4	176.7	33.0	12.5	271.9	32,419	7.17	27,024

Table 4.2 Selected Iowa waterfowl statistics on harvest, duck stamp sales, days hunted and average seasonal bag per active adult hunter, (1961-present). Preliminary data for 2001. Source is USFWS.

YEAR	DAYS AND HARVEST (1,000's)								FEDERAL	AVE.	ACTIVE
	MALLARD	WOOD DUCK	B-W TEAL	G-W TEAL	ALL DUCKS	CANADA GEESE	SNOW GEESE	DAYS HUNTED	DUCK STAMPS	SEASON BAG	ADULT HUNTERS
2000	74.2	39.9	25.3	25.4	209.6	61.0	0.6	288.4	30,951	8.18	26,693
2001	99.5	40.8	39.4	23.3	249.0	44.5	4.0	298.5	32,090	8.63	28,013
<b>Percent Change in 2001 From:</b>											
2000	34%	2%	55%	-8%	19%	-27%	599%	3%	4%	6%	5%
1961-00 Av.	8%	11%	25%	-9%	10%	158%	-79%	-4%	-23%	39%	-20%
<b>1961-01 Statistics</b>											
Average	92.4	36.9	31.5	25.5	225.6	17.3	19.2	312.6	41,471	6.2	35,045
Maximum	183.3	77.8	74.0	45.2	441.0	59.5	48.3	536.5	68,401	9.9	58,700
Minimum	21.3	6.8	0.4	5.6	45.1	4.3	2.4	127.5	21,686	2.1	16,600

Table 4.3 Iowa's duck and coot seasons, 1917 to present.

YEAR	SEASON LENGTH	SEASON DATES	SHOOTING HOURS	LIMITS	
				DUCK BAG/POSS	COOT BAG/POSS
STATEWIDE					
1917	227	Sep 1 - Apr 15	Unknown	?	?
1918	107	Sep 16 - Dec 31	SR to SS	25 / none	25 /none
1919	107	Sep 16 - Dec 31	SR to SS	25 / none	25 /none
1920	107	Sep 16 - Dec 31	SR to SS	25 / none	25 /none
1921	107	Sep 16 - Dec 31	SR to SS	25 / none	25 /none
1922	107	Sep 16 - Dec 31	SR to SS	25 / none	25 /none
1923	107	Sep 16 - Dec 31	SR to SS	25 / none	25 /none
1924	107	Sep 16 - Dec 31	1/2 SR to SS	15 /50 WF	25 /none WF = all waterfowl combined
1925	107	Sep 16 - Dec 31	1/2 SR to SS	15 /50 WF	25 /none
1926	107	Sep 16 - Dec 31	1/2 SR to SS	15 /50 WF	25 /none
1927	107	Sep 16 - Dec 31	1/2 SR to SS	15 /50 WF	25 /none
1928	107	Sep 16 - Dec 31	1/2 SR to SS	15 /50 WF	25 /none
1929	107	Sep 16 - Dec 31	1/2 SR to SS	15 /21 DC	25 /none DC = all ducks combined
1930	107	Sep 16 - Dec 31	1/2 SR to SS	15 /21 DC	25 /none
1931	30	Oct 20 - Nov 19	1/2 SR to SS	15 /21 DC	25 /none
1932	61	Oct 1 - Nov 30	1/2 SR to SS	15 /21 *a	25 /none *a) Closed season on Wd, Ru, & Bh.
1933	61	Oct 1 - Nov 30	1/2 SR to SS	12 /24 *a	25 /none
1934	30	Oct 10 - Nov 18	SR to SS	12 /24 *a	25 /none Live decoys limited to 25. Season included 10 rest days.
1935	30	Oct 21 - Nov 19	7 AM to 4 PM	10 /10 *a	15 /15 Use of live decoys prohibited.
1936	30	Nov 1 - Nov 30	7 AM to 4 PM	10 /10 *b	15 /15 *b) Closed sea. on Wd, Cb, Rh, Ru, & Bh.
1937	30	Oct 9 - Nov 7	7 AM to 4 PM	10 /10 *b	25 /25
1938	45	Oct 15 - Nov 28	7 AM to 4 PM	10 /20 *c	25 /25 *c) Only 1 Bh, 1 Cb, 1 Ru, and 1 Rh, & no more than 3 in aggregate
1939	45	Oct 22 - Dec 5	7 AM to 4 PM	10 /20 *c	25 /25
1940	60	Oct 16 - Dec 14	SR to 4 PM	10 /20 *c	25 /25
1941	60	Oct 16 - Dec 14	SR to 4 PM	10 /20 *d	25 /25 *d) Only 3 Rh or 3 Bh or 3 in aggregate & only 1 Wd in poss at any time.
1942	70	Oct 15 - Dec 23	SR to SS	10 /20 *d	25 /25
1943	70	Sep 25 - Dec 3	1/2 SR to SS	10 /20 *d	25 /25
1944	80	Sep 20 - Dec 8	1/2 SR to SS	10 /20 *e	25 /25 *e) Only 5 each or in comb.: Ma, Pt, or Wg & only 1 Wd. 25 Am or Rm or comb.
1945	80	Sep 20 - Dec 8	1/2 SR to SS	10 /20 *f	25 /25 *f) Only 1 Wd in poss. at any time 25 Cm or Rm or comb.
1946	45	Oct 26 - Dec 9	1/2 SR to 1/2 SS	7 /14 *f	25 /25
1947	30	Oct 21 - Nov 19	1/2 SR to 1 S	4 / 8 *f	15 /15
1948	30	Oct 29 - Nov 27	1/2 SR to 1 S	4 / 8 *f	15 /15
1949	40	Oct 21 - Nov 29	1/2 SR to 1 S	4 / 8 *f	15 /15
1950	35	Oct 20 - Nov 23	1/2 SR to 1 S	4 / 8 *f	15 /15
1951	45	Oct 12 - Nov 25	1/2 SR to 1 S	4 / 8 *f	10 /10
1952	55	Oct 8 - Dec 1	1/2 SR to 1 S	4 / 8 *g	10 /10 *g) Only 1 Wd in poss. at any time. 1 Hm or 25 Cm or Rm or comb.
1953	55	Oct 8 - Dec 1	1/2 SR to SS	4 / 8 *g	10 /10
1954	55	Oct 15 - Dec. 8	1/2 SR to 1 S	4 / 8 *h	10 /10 *h) Closed sea. on Wd. 1 Hm or 25 Cm or Rm or comb.
1955	70	Oct 8 - Dec 16	1/2 SR to 1/2 SS	4 / 8 *g	10 /10
1956	70	Oct 6 - Dec 14	1/2 SR to 1/2 SS	4 / 8 *h	10 /10



Table 4.3 Iowa's duck and coot seasons, 1917 to present.

YEAR	SEASON LENGTH	SEASON DATES	SHOOTING HOURS	LIMITS		
				DUCK	COOT	
				BAG/POSS	BAG/POSS	
		STATEWIDE				
1957	70	Oct 5 - Dec 13	1/2 SR to SS	4 / 8 *i	10 /10	*i) Closed season on Wd. 5 mergansers, only 1 Hm.
1958	70	Oct 4 - Dec 12	1/2 SR to SS	4 / 8 *ii	10 /10	*ii) Only 2 Cb or 2 Rh or 2 in comb. No Wd season. 5 merg. only 1 Hm.
1959	50	Oct 20 - Dec 8	SR to SS	3 / 6 *j	3 / 6	*j) Only 1 Wd, 1 Cb, 1 Rh, or 1 Ru. 5 mergansers, only 1 Hm.
1960	50	Oct 15 - Dec 3	1/2 SR to SS	3 / 6 *k	8 /12	*k) Only 1 Wd. Closed sea. on Cb & Rh. 5 mergansers, only 1 Hm.
1961	30	Oct 21 - Nov 19	SR to SS	2 / 4 *k	6 / 6	
1962	25	Oct 27 - Nov 20	SR to SS	2 / 4 *l	6 / 6	*l) Only 1 Ma or Bd, 2 Wd. No Cb or Rh. 2 bonus Sc., 5 merg., only 1 Hm.
1963	35	Oct 5-13 Oct 26 - Nov 20	SR to SS	4 / 8 *m	8 / 8	*m) Only 2 Ma or Bd, 2 Wd. No Cb or Rh. 5 mergansers, only 1 Hm.
1964	35	Oct 3-4 Oct 24 - Nov 25	SR to SS	4 / 8 *n	10 /20	*n) Only 2 Ma or Bd, 2 Wd, 2 Cb or 2 Rh. 5 mergansers, only 1 Hm.
1965	40	Sep 11-19 (teal season) Oct 23 - Dec 1	SR to SS 1/2 SR to SS	4 / 8 *o	10 /20	*o) Only 1 Ma or Pt or Bd, 2 Wd, 2 Cb or Rh. 5 mergansers, only 1 Hm.
1966	45	Sep 17-25 (teal season) Oct 15 - Nov 28	SR to SS 1/2 SR to SS	4 / 8 *oo	10 /20	*oo) Only 2 Ma or Bd, 2 Wd, 2 Cb. 5 mergansers, only 1 Hm.
1967	40	Sep 16-24 (teal season) Oct 21 - Nov 29	SR to SS 1/2 SR to SS	4 / 8 *p	10 /20	*p) Only 2 Ma or Bd, 1 Wd, & 1 Cb. 5 mergansers, only 1 Hm.
1968	30	Oct 26 - Nov 24	1/2 SR to SS	3 / 6 *q	10 /20	*q) Only 1 Ma, 2 Bd, 2 Wd, 1 Cb or Rh. 5 mergansers, only 1 Hm.
1969	30	Sep 13-21 (teal season) Oct 25 - Nov 23	SR to SS 1/2 SR to SS	4 / 8 *r	10 /20	*r) Only 2 Ma, 2 Bd, 2 Wd, 1 Cb or Rh. 5 mergansers, only 1 Hm.
1970	55	Oct 3 - Nov 26	SR to SS	PS *s	15 /30	*s) 90 pt = Hn Ma, Bd, Wd, Rh, Cb, Hm. 20 pt= Dr Ma, Hn Pt, Rn. 10 pt= all other.
1971	50	Oct 2 - Nov 20	1/2 SR to SS	PS *t	15 /30	*t) 100 pt= Cb, Rh. 90 pt= Hn Ma, Bd, Wd, Hm. 20 pt= Dr Ma, Hn Pt, Rn. 10 pt= all other.
1972	50	Oct 7-12 Oct 21 - Dec 3	SR to SS	PS *u	15 /30	*u) 90 pt= Hn Ma, Bd, Wd, Hm. 20 pt= Dr Ma, Hn Pt, Rn. 10 pt= all other. Closed season on Cb & Rh.
1973	45	Oct 6-10 Oct 20 - Nov 28	SR to SS	PS *v	15 /30	*v) 100 pt= Cb, Rh. 90 pt= Hn Ma, Wd, Hm. 25 pt= Dr Ma, Pt, Bd, Rn & all others. 15 pt= Bt, Gt, Ga, Wg, Sh, Sc, Cm, Rm.
1974	45	Oct 5-12 Oct 26 - Dec 1	SR to SS	PS *w	15 /30	*w) 100 pt= Cb, Rh. 90 pt= Hn Ma, Bd, Wd, Hm. 35 pt= Dr Ma, Rn, Md. 15 pt= all others.
1975	45	Oct 4-11 Oct 25 - Nov 30	1/2 SR to SS	PS *x	15 /30	*x) 100 pt= Cb, Rh. 90 pt= Hn Ma, Bd, Wd, Hm. 35 pt= Dr Ma, Rn, Wg, & all others. 10 pt= Bwt, Gwt, Ga, Pt, Sh, Sc.
1976	50	Oct 2-7 Oct 23 - Dec 5	1/2 SR to SS	PS *y	15 /30	*y) 100 pt= Cb. 70 pt= Hn Ma, Bd, Wd, Rh, Hm. 25 pt= Dr Ma, Rn, Wg, & all others. 10 pt= Bt, Gt, Ct, Ga, Pt, Sh, Sc, Cm, Rm.
1977	45	Oct 8-15 Oct 22 - Nov 27	SR to SS	PS *y	15 /30	
1978	50	Oct 1-8 Oct 21-Dec 1	1/2 SR to SS	PS *z	15 /30	*z) 100 pt= Cb. 70 pt= Hn Ma, Bd, Wd, Rh, Hm. 35 pt= Dr Ma, Rn, & all others. 10 pt= Bt, Gt, Ct, Ga, Wg, Pt, Sh, Sc, Cm, Rm.
1979	50	Sep 22-26 Oct 20 - Dec 3	1/2 SR to SS	PS *aa	15 /30	*aa) 100 pt= Cb. 70 pt= Hn Ma, Bd, Wd, Rh, Hm. 25 pt= Dr Ma, Rn, & all others. 10 pt= Bt, Gt, Ct, Ga, Wg, Pt, Sh, Sc, Cm, Rm.

Table 4.3 Iowa's duck and coot seasons, 1917 to present.

YEAR	SEASON LENGTH	SEASON DATES	SHOOTING HOURS	LIMITS			
				DUCK	COOT		
				BAG/POSS	BAG/POSS		
STATEWIDE							
1980	50	Sep 20-24 Oct 18 - Dec 1	1/2 SR to SS	PS *aa	15 /30		
1981	50	Sep 19-23 Oct 17 - Nov 30	1/2 SR to SS	PS *aa	15 /30		
1982	50	Sep 18-22 Oct 23 - Dec 6	1/2 SR to SS	PS *aa	15 /30		
NORTH ZONE (OUTH ZONE (1)							
1983	50	Sep 17-21 Oct 15 - Nov : Oct 22 - Dec 5	Sep 17-21 1/2 SR to SS	PS *ab	15 /30	*ab) 100 pt= Cb, Bd. 70 pt= Hn Ma, Wd, Rh, Hm. 25 pt= Dr Ma, Rn, & all others. 10 pt= Bt, Gt, Ct, Ga, Wg, Pt, Sh, Sc, Cm, Rm.	
1984	50	Sep 22-26 Oct 20 - Dec : Oct 27 - Dec 10	Sep 22-26 1/2 SR to SS	PS *ab	15 /30		
1985	40	Sep 21-23 Oct 19 - Nov : Oct 26 - Dec 1	Sep 21-23 1/2 SR to SS	PS *ac	15 /30	*ac) 100 pt= Hn Ma, Cb, Bd. 70 pt= Wd, Rh, Hm. 35 pt= Dr Ma, Pt, Rn, & all others. 20 pt= Bt, Gt, Ct, Ga, Wg, Sh, Sc, Cm, Rm.	
1986	40	Sep 20-24 Oct 18 - Nov : Oct 25 - Nov 30	Sep 20-22 1/2 SR to SS	PS *ad	15 /30	*ad) 100 pt= Hn Ma, Bd. 70 pt= Wd, Rh, Hm. 35 pt= Dr Ma, Pt, Rn, & all others. 20 pt= Bt, Gt, Ct, Ga, Wg, Sh, Sc, Cm, Rm. Closed season on Cb.	
NORTH ZONE (OUTH ZONE (2)							
1987	40	Sep 19-23 Oct 17 - Nov : Oct 24 - Nov 29	Sep 19-21 1/2 SR to SS	PS *ad	15 /30		
(*SH)	1988	30	Oct 8 - 9 Oct 22 - Nov Nov 5 - 27	Oct 22 - 28 SR to SS	3 / 6 *ae	15 /30	*ae) Only 2 Ma ( 1 Hn), 2 Wd, 1 Pt, 1 Rh, 1 Bd. 5 merg., only 1 Hm. Closed sea. on Cb.
1989	30	Oct 7 - 8 Oct 21 - Nov Nov 4 - 26	Oct 21 - 27 SR to SS	3 / 6 *ae	15 /30		
1990	30	Oct 6 - 7 Oct 20 - Nov Nov 3 - 25	Oct 20 - 26 1/2 SR to SS	3 / 6 *ae	15 /30		
1991	30	Oct 5 - 6 Oct 19 - Nov Nov 9 - Dec 1	Oct 19 - 25 1/2 SR to SS	3 / 6 *ae	15 /30		
1992	30	Oct 10 - 13 Oct 24 - Nov Nov 7 - 29	Oct 24 - 30 1/2 SR to SS	3 / 6 *ae	15 /30		
1993	30	Oct 2 - 4 Oct 23 - Nov Nov 6 - 28	Oct 23 - 29 1/2 SR to SS	3 / 6 *ae	15 /30		
1994	40	Sept 17 - 19 Oct 15 - Nov : Oct 22 - Nov 27	Oct 1 - 3 1/2 SR to SS	3 / 6 *af	15 /30	*af) Only 2 Ma ( 1 Hn), 2 Wd, 1 Pt, 1 Rh, 1 Bd, 1 Cb. 5 merg., only 1 Hm.	
1995	50	Sept 23 - 27 Oct 15 - Nov : Oct 21 - Dec 6	Sept 23 - 25 1/2 SR to SS	5 /10 *ag	15 /30	*ag) Only 4 Ma ( 1 Hn), 2 Wd, 1 Pt, 1 Rh, 1 Bd, 1 Cb. 5 merg., only 1 Hm.	
1996	50	Sept 21 - 25 Oct 19 - Dec : Oct 19 - Dec 4	Sept 21 - 23 1/2 SR to SS	5 /10 *ah	15 /30	*ah) Only 4 Ma ( 1 Hn), 2 Wd, 1 Pt, 2 Rh, 1 Bd, 1 Cb. 5 merg., only 1 Hm.	
	Youth Day	Oct 5 Oct 5	1/2 SR to SS	5 /10 *ah			
1997	60	Sept 20 - 24 Oct 11 - Dec : Oct 18 - Dec 11	Sept 20 - 24 1/2 SR to SS	6 /12 *ai	15 /30	*ai) Only 4 Ma (2 Hn), 2 Wd, 3 Pt, 2 Rh, 1 Bd, 1 Cb. 5 merg., only 1 Hm.	
	Youth Day	Sept 27 Sept 27	1/2 SR to SS	6 /12 *ai	15 /30		
1998	60	Sept 19 - 23 Oct 10 - Dec : Oct 17 - Dec 10	Sept 19 - 23 1/2 SR to SS	6 /12 *aj	15 /30	*aj) Only 4 Ma (2 Hn), 2 Wd, 1 Pt, 2 Rh, 1 Bd, 1 Cb. 5 merg., only 1 Hm.	
(*HIP)	Youth Day	Sept 26 Sept 26	1/2 SR to SS	6 /12 *aj	15 /30		

Table 4.3 Iowa's duck and coot seasons, 1917 to present.

YEAR	SEASON LENGTH	SEASON DATES	SHOOTING HOURS	LIMITS			
				DUCK	COOT		
				BAG/POSS	BAG/POSS		
NORTH ZONE (OUTH ZONE (2)							
1999	60	Sept 18 - 22	Sept 18 - 22	1/2 SR to SS	6 /12 *ak	15 /30	*ak) Only 4 Ma (2 Hn), 2 Wd, 1 Pt, 2 Rh, 1 Bd, 1 Cb
		Oct 16 - Dec 1	Oct 16 - Dec 9				& 3 Sc. 5 merg., only 1 Hm.
	Youth Day	Oct 9	Oct 9	1/2 SR to SS	6 /12 *ak	15 /30	
2000	60	Sept 23 - 27	Sept 23 - 27	1/2 SR to SS	6 /12 *ak	15 /30	
		Oct 14 - Dec 1	Oct 14 - Dec 7				
	Youth Day	Oct 7 - 8	Oct 7 - 8	1/2 SR to SS	6 /12 *ak	15 /30	
2001	60	Sept 22 - 26	Sept 22 - 26	1/2 SR to SS	6 /12 *ak	15 /30	
		Oct 13 - Dec 1	Oct 13 - Dec 6				
	Canvasback	Oct. 27 - Nov 1	Nov 17 - Dec 6				
	Youth Day	Oct 6 - 7	Oct 6 - 7	1/2 SR to SS	6 /12 *ak	15 /30	

DUCK SPECIES: Ma = Mallard, Wd = Wood duck, Bd = Black duck, Cb = Canvasback, Rh = Redhead, Ru = Ruddy duck, Bu = Bufflehead, Pt = Pintail, Wg = Wigeon, Sc = Scaup, Rn = Ring-necked duck, Bt = Blue-winged teal, Gt = Green-winged teal, Ga = Gadwall, Sh = Shoveler, Ct = Cinnamon teal, Md = Mottled duck, (Hn = Hen, Dr = Drake) Cm = Common merganser, Rm = Red-breasted merganser, Hm = Hooded merganser

SHOOTING HOURS: SR to SS = sunrise to sunset, 1/2 SR to SS = 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset, 1/2 SR to 1/2 SS = 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour before sunset, 1/2 SR to 1 SS = 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1 hour before sunset. Shooting hours began at 12:00 noon on opening day for hunting seasons 1931-33, 1947-54, & 1959-63. Iowa set daily shooting hours at sunrise or later during 27 of the 72 hunting seasons between 1918-89. Federal regulations set daily shooting hours at sunrise or later during 16 of the 72 hunting seasons between 1918-89.

LIMIT: BAG = Daily bag limit, POSS = Possession limit

POSS LIMIT = Twice the daily bag limit unless otherwise noted.

PS = Point System used to determine bag limit; daily bag obtained when the point value of the last duck taken, added to the point values of the previous ducks bagged, reaches or exceeds 100 points.

SPEC. REGULATIONS: Wood duck season closed by Fed. regulation from 1918 through the 1940 season.

Canvasback and redhead season were closed on the Mississippi River from 1975 thru 1979.

Canvasback season was closed on the Mississippi River in 1980-82.

Canvasback season closed on Pools 9 & 19 on the Mississippi River from 1983-85.

Canvasback season closed statewide 1936-37, 1960-63, 1972, 1986-93.

DUCK ZONE BOUNDARY (1) = a line running from the Nebraska-Iowa border along I-80 to the Iowa-Illinois border.

DUCK ZONE BOUNDARY (2) = a line running from the Nebraska-Iowa border along State Hwy 175, east to State Hwy 37,

southeast to U.S. Hwy 59, south to I-80 and along I-80 to the Iowa-Illinois border.

(\*SH) Steel shot required statewide for hunting all migratory gamebirds except woodcock.

STEEL SHOT REGULATIONS HISTORY:

In 1977, no person could hunt waterfowl on all waters and a 150 yard zone thereto in Fremont and Mills Counties while possessing 12 gauge shotshells loaded with any shot other than steel. Drainage ditches, temporary sheet water and the Missouri River were exempt.

During 1978 & 1979, no person could hunt waterfowl on all waters and a 150 yard zone thereto in Fremont and Mills Counties and on the Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge while possessing 12 gauge shotshells loaded with any shot other than steel.

Drainage ditches, temporary sheet water, and the Missouri River in Mills and Fremont Counties were exempt.

In 1980, Sweet Marsh in Bremer County, Big Marsh in Butler County, and the Princeton Area in Scott County, were added to the areas previously described in the steel shot regulations and the rule now applied to all shotgun gauges.

In 1981, Green Island in Jackson County was added to the list of areas previously described where steel shot was required.

During the 1982 through 1984 seasons, the previously described list of areas for steel shot remained the same.

During the 1985 & 1986 seasons, no person could hunt migratory game birds except woodcock on any lands or waters under the jurisdiction of the State Conservation Commission, the U.S. Government, or any county conservation board, or on all waters and a 150 yard zone adjacent to these waters, including reservoirs, lakes, ponds, marshes, bayous, swamps, rivers, streams, and seasonally flooded areas of all types, while possessing shotshells loaded with shot other than steel shot.

Temporary sheet water, farm ponds less than 2 acres in size, and streams with water less than 25 feet in width where the hunting was occurring were exempt. In addition, no person could hunt waterfowl in the zone bounded on the west by the Missouri River, on the south by I-680, on the east by I-29 and on the north by the Soldier River, while possessing any shotshells loaded with shot other than steel shot.

From 1987 to the present, no person could hunt migratory game birds except woodcock on all lands and waters within the State of Iowa while possessing any shotshell loaded with shot other than steel shot, or copper or nickle coated steel shot.

In 1998, nontoxic shot was required for any shotgun shooting (except turkey hunting) on most DNR managed wildlife areas in Iowa's prairie pothole region that had waterfowl production potential.

(\*HIP) First year migratory bird hunters in Iowa registered (by phone) for the federal Harvest Information Program (HIP).

Table 4.4 Iowa's goose seasons, 1917 present.

YEAR	GOOSE SPECIES	SEASON LENGTH	SEASON DATES	SHOOTING HOURS	LIMIT BAG/POSS	COMMENTS
STATEWIDE						
1917	Ca/Sn/Wf	227	Sep 1 - Apr 15	Unknown	?	
1918	Ca/Sn/Wf	107	Sep 16 - Dec 31	SR to SS	8 / none	
1919	Ca/Sn/Wf	107	Sep 16 - Dec 31	SR to SS	8 / none	
1920	Ca/Sn/Wf	107	Sep 16 - Dec 31	SR to SS	8 / none	
1921	Ca/Sn/Wf	107	Sep 16 - Dec 31	SR to SS	8 / none	
1922	Ca/Sn/Wf	107	Sep 16 - Dec 31	SR to SS	8 / none	
1923	Ca/Sn/Wf	107	Sep 16 - Dec 31	SR to SS	8 / none	
1924	Ca/Sn/Wf	107	Sep 16 - Dec 31	1/2 SR to SS	8 / 50 WF	WF = all waterfowl combined
1925	Ca/Sn/Wf	107	Sep 16 - Dec 31	1/2 SR to SS	8 / 50 WF	
1926	Ca/Sn/Wf	107	Sep 16 - Dec 31	1/2 SR to SS	8 / 50 WF	
1927	Ca/Sn/Wf	107	Sep 16 - Dec 31	1/2 SR to SS	8 / 50 WF	
1928	Ca/Sn/Wf	107	Sep 16 - Dec 31	1/2 SR to SS	8 / 50 WF	
1929	Ca/Sn/Wf	107	Sep 16 - Dec 31	1/2 SR to SS	8 / 50 WF	
1930	Ca/Sn/Wf	107	Sep 16 - Dec 31	1/2 SR to SS	4 / 8	
1931	Ca/Sn/Wf	30	Oct 20 - Nov 19	1/2 SR to SS	4 / 8	
1932	Ca/Sn/Wf	61	Oct 1 - Nov 30	1/2 SR to SS	4 / 8	
1933	Ca/Sn/Wf	61	Oct 1 - Nov 30	1/2 SR to SS	4 / 8	
1934	Ca/Sn/Wf	30	Oct 10 - Nov 18	SR to SS	4 / 8	(included 10 rest days)
1935	Ca/Sn/Wf	30	Oct 21 - Nov 19	7 AM to 4 PM	4 / 4	
1936	Ca/Sn/Wf	30	Nov 1 - Nov 30	7 AM to 4 PM	4 / 4	
1937	Ca/Sn/Wf	30	Oct 9 - Nov 7	7 AM to 4 PM	5 / 5	
1938	Ca/Sn/Wf	45	Oct 15 - Nov 28	7 AM to 4 PM	5 / 10	
1939	Ca/Sn/Wf	45	Oct 22 - Dec 5	7 AM to 4 PM	4 / 8	
1940	Ca/Sn/Wf	60	Oct 16 - Dec 14	SR to 4 PM	3 / 6	
1941	Ca/Sn/Wf	60	Oct 16 - Dec 14	SR to 4 PM	3 / 6	
1942	Ca/Sn/Wf	70	Oct 15 - Dec 23	SR to SS	2 / 4	
1943	Ca/Sn/Wf	70	Sep 25 - Dec 3	1/2 SR to SS	2 / 4	
1944	Ca/Sn/Wf	80	Sep 20 - Dec 8	1/2 SR to SS	2 / 4 *a	*a) Sn goose poss. limit = 8.
1945	Ca/Sn/Wf	80	Sep 20 - Dec 8	1/2 SR to SS	2 / 4 *a	
1946	Ca/Sn/Wf	45	Oct 26 - Dec 9	1/2 SR to 1/2 SS	4 / 4 *b	*b) Closed Ca goose season.
1947	Ca/Sn/Wf	30	Oct 21 - Nov 19	1/2 SR to 1 SS	4 / 4 *c	*c) Only 1 Ca or 1 Wf goose in bag.
1948	Ca/Sn/Wf	30	Oct 29 - Nov 27	1/2 SR to 1 SS	4 / 4 *c	
1949	Ca/Sn/Wf	40	Oct 21 - Nov 29	1/2 SR to 1 SS	4 / 4 *c	
1950	Ca/Sn/Wf	35	Oct 20 - Nov 23	1/2 SR to 1 SS	4 / 4 *c	
1951	Ca/Sn/Wf	45	Oct 12 - Nov 25	1/2 SR to 1 SS	5 / 5 *d	*d) Only 2 Ca or 2 Wf, or 1 Ca & 1 Wf.
1952	Ca/Sn/Wf	55	Oct 8 - Dec 1	1/2 SR to 1 SS	5 / 5 *d	
1953	Ca/Sn/Wf	55	Oct 8 - Dec 1	1/2 SR to SS	5 / 5 *d	
1954	Ca/Sn/Wf	55	Oct 15 - Dec 8	1/2 SR to 1 SS	5 / 5 *d	
1955	Ca/Sn/Wf	70	Oct 8 - Dec 16	1/2 SR to 1/2 SS	5 / 5 *d	
1956	Ca/Sn/Wf	70	Oct 6 - Dec 14	1/2 SR to 1/2 SS	5 / 5 *d	
1957	Ca/Sn/Wf	70	Oct 5 - Dec 13	1/2 SR to SS	5 / 5 *d	
1958	Ca/Sn/Wf	70	Oct 4 - Dec 12	1/2 SR to SS	5 / 5 *d	
1959	Ca/Sn/Wf	70	Oct 7 - Dec 15	SR to SS	5 / 5 *d	
1960	Ca/Sn/Wf	70	Oct 8 - Dec 16	1/2 SR to SS	5 / 5 *d	
1961	Ca/Sn/Wf	70	Oct 7 - Dec 15	SR to SS	5 / 5 *d	
1962	Ca/Sn/Wf	70	Oct 6 - Dec 14	SR to SS	5 / 5 *d	
1963	Ca/Sn/Wf	70	Oct 5 - Dec 13	SR to SS	5 / 5 *d	
1964	Ca/Sn/Wf	70	Oct 3 - Dec 11	SR to SS	5 / 5 *d	
1965	Ca/Sn/Wf	70	Oct 2 - Dec 10	1/2 SR to SS	5 / 5 *d	

Table 4.4 Iowa's goose seasons, 1917 present.

YEAR	GOOSE SPECIES	SEASON LENGTH	SEASON DATES	SHOOTING HOURS	LIMIT BAG/POSS	COMMENTS
STATEWIDE						
1966	Ca/Sn/Wf	70	Oct 1 - Dec 9	1/2 SR to SS	5 / 5 *d	
1967	Ca/Sn/Wf	70	Sep 30 - Dec 8	1/2 SR to SS	5 / 5 *d	
1968	Ca/Sn/Wf	70	Sep 28 - Dec 6	1/2 SR to SS	5 / 5 *d	
1969	Ca/Sn/Wf	70	Oct 4 - Dec 12	1/2 SR to SS	5 / 5 *d	
1970	Ca	23	Oct 3 - Nov 26	SR to SS	1 / 1 *e	*e) Bag & pos. lim.= 5 w/ only 1 Ca,
	Sn/Wf	70	Oct 3 - Dec 11		5 / 5 *e	1 Ca + 1 WF, or 2 Wf.
1971	Ca	23	Oct 9 - Oct 31	1/2 SR to SS	1 / 1 *e	
	Sn/Wf	70	Oct 2 - Dec 10		5 / 5 *e	
1972	Ca	23	Oct 1 - Nov 9	SR to SS	1 / 2 *f	*f) Bag lim.= 5 w/ only 1 Ca,
	Sn/Wf	70	Oct 7 - Dec 15		5 / 5 *f	1 Ca + 1 WF, or 2 Wf.
						Pos. lim.= 5 w/ only 2 Ca,
						1 Ca + 1 WF, or 2 Wf.
1973	Ca	40	Oct 1 - Nov 9	SR to SS	1 / 2 *g	*g) Bag lim.= 5 w/ only 1 Ca & 2 Wf.
	Sn/Wf	70	Oct 1 - Dec 9		5 / 5 *g	Pos lim.= 5 w/ only 2 Ca & 2 Wf.
1974	Ca	45	Oct 1 - Nov 14	SR to SS	1 / 2 *g	
	Sn/Wf	70	Oct 1 - Dec 9		5 / 5 *g	
1975	Ca	45	Oct 1 - Nov 14	1/2 SR to SS	2 / 2 *h	*h) Bag lim.= 5 w/ only 2 Ca & 2 Wf.
	Sn/Wf	70	Oct 1 - Dec 9		5 / 5 *h	Pos lim.= Bag lim.
1976	Ca	45	Oct 1 - Nov 14	1/2 SR to SS	2 / 4 *h	
	Sn/Wf	70	Oct 1 - Dec 9		5 / 10 *h	
1977	Ca	45	Oct 1 - Nov 14	SR to SS	2 / 4 *h	
	Sn/Wf	70	Oct 1 - Dec 9		5 / 10 *h	
1978	Ca/Sn/Wf	70	Oct 1 - Dec 9	1/2 SR to SS	5 / 10 *h	
1979	Ca/Sn/Wf	70	Sep 29 - Dec 7	1/2 SR to SS	5 / 10 *h	
1980	Ca/Sn/Wf	70	Oct 4 - Dec 12	1/2 SR to SS	5 / 10 *i	*i) Bag lim.= 5 w/ only 2 Ca & 2 Wf.
						Pos lim.= 10 w/ only 4 Ca & 4 Wf.
1981	Ca/Sn/Wf	70	Oct 3 - Dec 11	1/2 SR to SS	5 / 10 *i	
1982	Ca/Sn/Wf	70	Oct 2 - Dec 10	1/2 SR to SS	5 / 10 *i	
1983	Ca/Sn/Wf	70	Oct 1 - Dec 9	1/2 SR to SS	5 / 10 *i	
MOST OF ST SW ZONE (1)						
1984	Ca/Sn/Wf	70	Sep 29 - Dec Oct 13 - Dec ;	1/2 SR to SS	5 / 10 *i	
1985	Ca/Sn/Wf	70	Sep 28 - Dec Oct 12 - Dec ;	1/2 SR to SS	5 / 10 *i	
1986	Ca/Sn/Wf	70	Oct 4 - Dec 1; Oct 18 - Dec ;	1/2 SR to SS	5 / 10 *i	
1987	Ca	45	Oct 3 - Nov 1; Oct 17 - Nov ;	1/2 SR to SS	2 / 4 *i	
(*SH)	Sn/Wf	70	Oct 3 - Dec 1 Oct 17 - Dec 25		5 / 10 *i	
1988	Ca	45	Oct 1 - Nov 1; Oct 15 - Nov ;	SR to SS	2 / 4 *i	
	Sn/Wf	70	Oct 1 - Dec 9 Oct 15 - Dec 23		5 / 10 *i	
MOST OF ST SW ZONE (2)						
1989	Ca	45	Sep 30 - Nov Oct 14 - Nov ;	SR to SS	2 / 4 *j	*j) Bag lim.= 7 w/ only 2 Ca & 2 Wf.
	Sn/Br	80	Sep 30 - Dec Oct 14 - Jan 1		7 / 14 *j	Pos lim.= 14 w/ only 4 Ca & 4 Wf.
	Wf	70	Sep 30 - Dec Oct 14 - Dec 22		2 / 4 *j	
1990	Ca/Wf/Br	70	Sep 29 - Dec Oct 13 - Dec ;	1/2 SR to SS	2 / 4 *j	
	Sn	80	Sep 29 - Dec Oct 13 - Dec 31		7 / 14 *j	
1991	Ca/Wf/Br	70	Sep 28 - Dec Oct 12 - Dec ;1/2 SR to SS/1		2 / 4 *j	
	Sn	80	Sep 28 - Dec Oct 12 - Dec 30		7 / 14 *j	
1992	Ca/Wf/Br	70	Oct 3 - Dec 1 Oct 10 - Dec 1/2 SR to SS/1		2 / 4 *j	
	Sn	80	Oct 3 - Dec 2 Oct 10 - Dec 28		7 / 14 *j	

Table 4.4 Iowa's goose seasons, 1917 present.

YEAR	GOOSE SPECIES	SEASON LENGTH	SEASON DATES	SHOOTING HOURS	LIMIT BAG/POSS	COMMENTS
<b>NORTH ZON SOUTH ZONE</b>						
1993	Ca/Wf/Br	55	Oct 9 - Dec 2	Oct 23 - Dec	1/2 SR to SS	2 / 4 *j
	Sn	80	Oct 9 - Dec 2	Oct 23 - Jan 10, 1994		7 / 14 *j
1994	Ca/Wf/Br	55	Oct 8 - Dec 1	Oct 22 - Dec	1/2 SR to SS	2 / 4 *j
	Sn	102	Oct 1 - Dec 1	Oct 1 - Jan 10, 1995		7 / 14 *j
1995	Ca/Wf/Br	70	Sep 30 - Dec	Oct 14 - Dec ;	1/2 SR to SS	2 / 4 *k *k) Bag lim.= 10 w/ only 2 Ca & 2 Wf.
	Sn	107	Sep 30 - Jan	Oct 14 - Jan 10, 1996		10 / 20 *k Pos lim.= 20 w/ only 4 Ca & 4 Wf.
			None	Feb 24 - Mar 10, 1996	south of Interstate 80.	
1996	Ca	2	Sep 14 - 15	None	1/2 SR to SS	2 / 4 *l *l) Bag lim.= 2 Ca.
	Ca/Wf/Br	70	Sep 28 - Dec	Oct 5 - Oct 1;	1/2 SR to SS	2 / 4 *m *m) Bag lim.= 2 Ca , 2 Wf, & 2 Br .
			Oct 19 - Dec 18			Pos lim.= 4 Ca, 4 Wf, & 4 Br.
	Sn	107	Oct 12 - Jan 10, 1997		1/2 SR to SS	10 / 30
			Feb 22 - Mar 9, 1997			
1997	Ca	2	Sep 13 - 14	None	1/2 SR to SS	2 / 4 *l
	Ca/Wf/Br	70	Oct 4 - Dec 1;	Oct 4 - Oct 1;	1/2 SR to SS	2 / 4 *m
			Oct 18 - Dec 17			
	Sn/Ro	107	Oct 4 - Dec 31		1/2 SR to SS	10 / 30
			Feb 21 - Mar 10, 1998			
1998	Ca	2	Sep 12 - 13	None	1/2 SR to SS	2 / 4 *l
(*HIP)	Ca/Wf/Br	70	Oct 3 - Dec 1	Oct 3 - Oct 11	1/2 SR to SS	<sup>a</sup> 2 / 4 *m
			Oct 17 - Dec 16			
	Sn/Ro	107	Oct 3 - Dec 31		1/2 SR to SS	20 / none
			Feb 20 - Mar 10, 1999			
	Sn/Ro	<sup>b</sup> Cons. Or.	March 11-April 16, 1999		1/2 SR to SS 1/2	20 / none

Table 4.4 Iowa's goose seasons, 1917 present.

YEAR	GOOSE SPECIES	SEASON LENGTH	SEASON DATES	SHOOTING HOURS	LIMIT BAG/POSS	COMMENTS
<b>NORTH ZONE/SOUTH ZONE</b>						
1999	Ca	2	Sep 11 - 12	None	1/2 SR to SS	2 / 4 *l
	Ca/Wf/Br	70	Oct 2 - Dec 1	Oct 2 - Oct 10	1/2 SR to SS	2 / 4 *m
			Oct 16 - Dec 15			
	Sn/Ro	107	Oct 2 - Dec 26	1/2 SR to SS	20 / none	
			Feb 19 - Mar 10, 2000			
	Sn/Ro	<sup>b</sup> Cons. Or.	March 11-April 16, 2000	1/2 SR to SS 1/2	20 / none	
2000	Ca	2	Sep 9 - 10	None	1/2 SR to SS	2 / 4 *l
	Ca/Wf/Br	70	Sep 30 - Dec	Sep 30 - Oct	1/2 SR to SS	2 / 4 *m
			Nov 4 - Dec 27			
	Sn/Ro	107	Sep 30 - Jan 14, 2001	1/2 SR to SS	20 / none	
	Sn/Ro	<sup>b</sup> Cons. Or.	Feb 15 - April 15, 2001	1/2 SR to SS 1/2	20 / none	
2001	Ca/Wf/Br	70	Sep 29 - Dec	Sep 29 - Oct	1/2 SR to SS	2 / 4 *m
			Nov 10 - Dec 26			
	Sn/Ro	107	Sep 29 - Jan 13, 2002	1/2 SR to SS	20 / none	
	Sn/Ro	<sup>b</sup> Cons. Or.	Feb 2 - April 15, 2002	1/2 SR to SS 1/2	20 / none	

GOOSE SPECIES: Ca = Canada goose, Sn = Snow goose, Wf = White-fronted goose, Br = Brant

SHOOTING HOURS: SR to SS = sunrise to sunset, 1/2 SR to SS = 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset, 1/2 SR to 1/2 SS = 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour before sunset, 1/2 SR to 1 SS = 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1 hour before sunset. 1/2 SR to SS/1 = 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset in all of state except SW Zone where shooting hours were 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1:00 PM until Dec. 1 in 1991 and until Nov. 29 in 1992, then 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset thereafter. 1/2 SR to SS 1/2 = 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

LIMIT: BAG = Daily bag limit, POSS = Possession limit

SW ZONE (1) = that portion of the state south and west of a line running from the Iowa-Missouri state line along US Hwy 71 to state Hwy 92 and west on Hwy 92 to the Nebraska-Iowa border.

SW ZONE (2) = that portion of the state south and west of a line running from the Iowa-Missouri state line along U.S. Hwy 71 to I-80, west on I-80 to U.S. Hwy 59, north on U.S. Hwy 59 to State Hwy 37, then NW on Hwy 37 to State Hwy 175, and west on Hwy 175 to the Nebraska-Iowa border.

NORTH/SOUTH GOOSE ZONE BOUNDARY = a line running from the Nebraska-Iowa border along state Hwy 175, southeast to State Hwy 37, east to U.S. Hwy 59, south to I-80, and along I-80 to the Iowa-Illinois border. This was the same border used to divide the north and south duck zones in 1993.

(\*SH) Steel shot required statewide for hunting all migratory gamebirds except woodcock.

See Iowa's Duck and Coot Seasons for a complete history of steel shot regulations in Iowa.

(\*HIP) First year migratory bird hunters in Iowa registered (by phone) for the federal Harvest Information Program (HIP).

SPECIAL REGULATIONS: Ross's goose season closed by Fed. regulations from 1942-61.

<sup>a</sup> The daily limit was 2 Canada geese through Oct. 31 and 1 thereafter except in the south zone where it was 2 after Nov. 30.

<sup>b</sup> A conservation order was issued by the USFWS to permit the taking of light geese (snow + ross) after March 10.

Hunters could use electronic calls and unplugged shotguns and hunt until 1/2 hour after sunset.

Hunters had to be fully licensed to hunt waterfowl in Iowa (no Fed. Mig. Bird stamp) and registered with HIP.

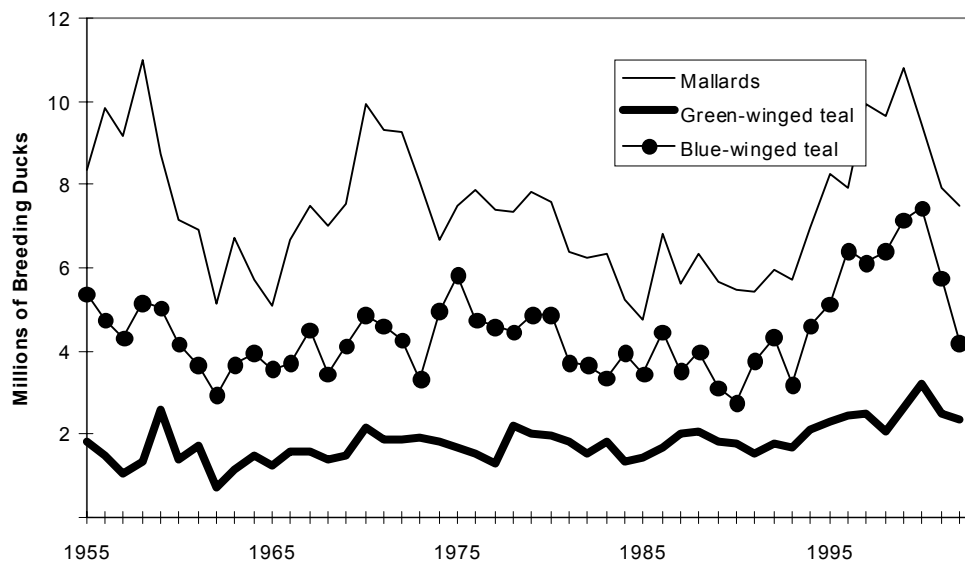
Table 4.5 Waterfowl banded in Iowa, 1964 to the present.  
(Numbers include both state and federal bandings.)

Year	Canada Geese	Mallards	Wood Ducks	Blue- winged Teal	Trumpeter Swans	Other species	Total
1964	51	440	488	6,046		273	7,298
1965	32	533	571	4,485		120	5,741
1966	61	504	564	3,836		172	5,137
1967	66	1,928	410	4,022		113	6,539
1968	91	1,809	315	3,716		63	5,994
1969	53	2,282	414	1,634		135	4,518
1970	143	2,368	935	2,649		236	6,331
1971	301	1,901	1,644	1,395		330	5,571
1972	148	672	1,381	1,000		127	3,328
1973	410	1,022	1,665	601		115	3,813
1974	268	522	1,333	638		34	2,795
1975	222	563	2,026	248		164	3,223
1976	544	3,165	1,620	334		19	5,682
1977	799	678	1,261	223		25	2,986
1978	633	4,418	1,765	1,022		98	7,936
1979	409	4,683	1,490	509		3	7,094
1980	775	2,175	1,302	1,880		85	6,217
1981	736	350	1,523	919		86	3,614
1982	975	99	2,747	26		1	3,848
1983	1,444	446	2,411	35		3	4,339
1984	1,293	110	2,489	38		6	3,936
1985	1,710	389	1,953	30		1	4,083
1986	1,847	383	2,623	18		3	4,874
1987	2,127	380	2,199	98		8	4,812
1988	2,421	349	2,115	37		2	4,924
1989	1,712	70	2,636	0		0	4,418
1990	1,556	13	1,908	64		0	3,541
1991	1,880	151	4,874	0		0	6,905
1992	2,043	392	3,776	0		13	6,224
1993	2,538	130	2,931	0		1	5,600
1994	3,737	146	3,631	0		0	7,614
1995	3,671	221	6,717	0		0	10,609
1996	3,809	263	4,188	0		0	8,260
1997	4,852	77	4,375	0		0	9,304
1998	4,462	292	4,837	0	58	0	9,649
1999	6,073	229	4,669	0	46	0	10,971
2000	2,971	133	2,380	0	90	0	5,574
2001	2,942	60	3,711	0	78	0	6,791

<sup>a</sup> Trumpeter swans

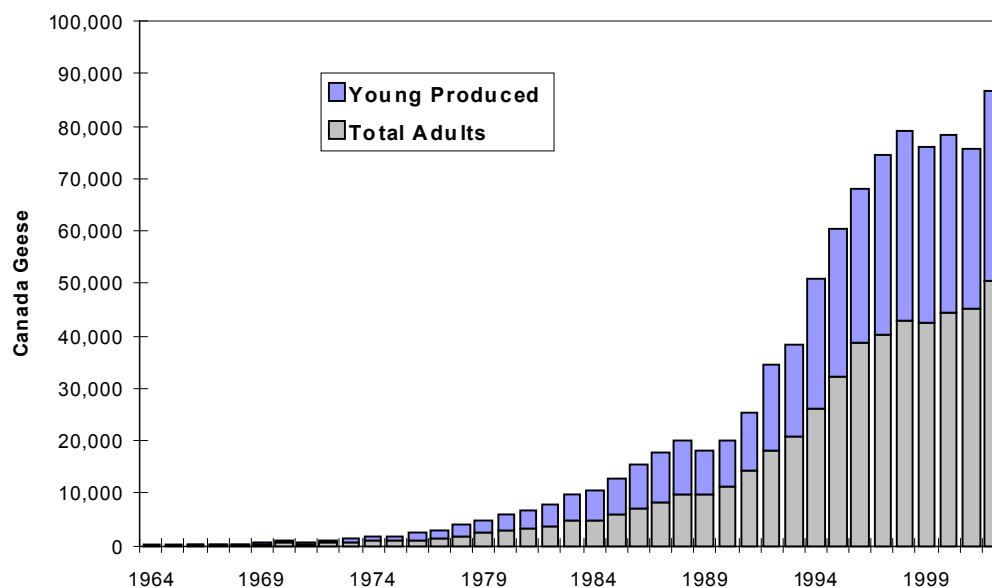


**Figure 4.1 Breeding populations of important ducks to Iowa.**



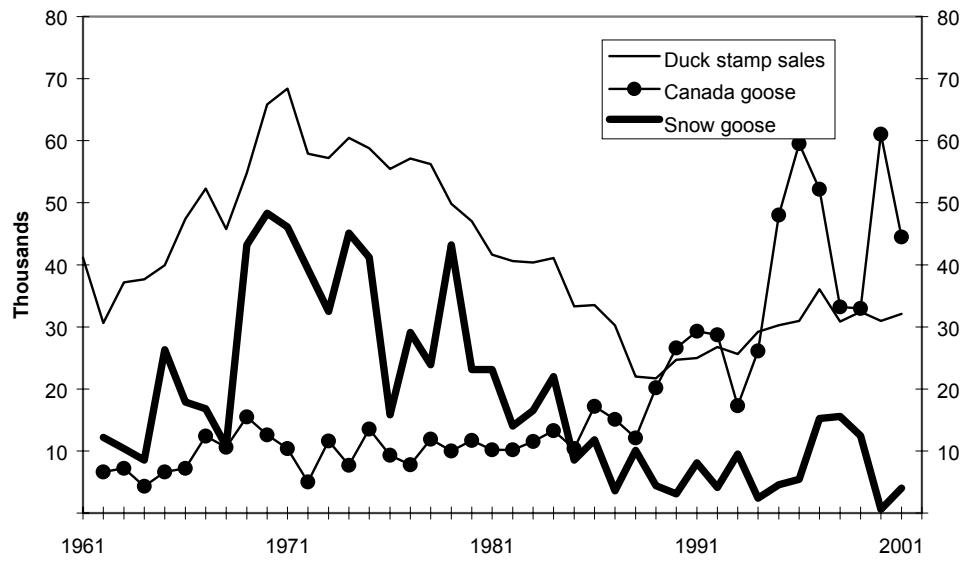
Source: USFWS

**Figure 4.2 Iowa's giant Canada goose population.**



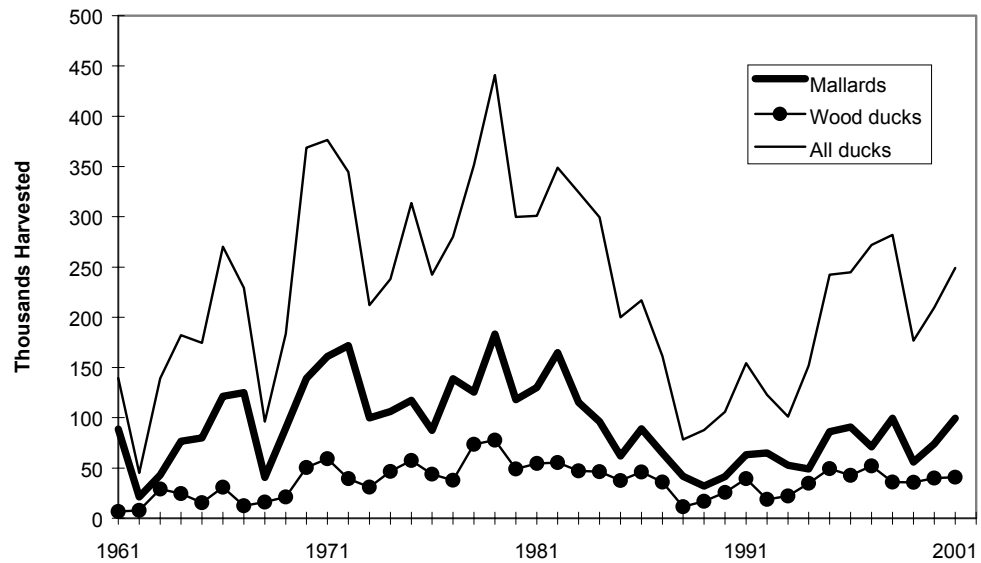
Source: Iowa DNR

**Figure 4.3 Goose harvest & duck stamp sales in Iowa (1961 -present).**



Source: USFWS

**Figure 4.4 Duck harvest in Iowa (1961 - present)**



Source: USFWS

